



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arkansas Catfish Production Report
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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains part of the results from the *Catfish Production Survey* conducted during January 2016. The data are posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report, *Catfish Production*, at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

Foodsize Catfish Inventory Down 19 Percent

Arkansas catfish producers had 7.34 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2016, down 19 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize fish on hand totaled 300,000, down 52 percent from January 1, 2015. Medium foodsize inventory, at 2.66 million, was up 1 percent from last year; while, small foodsize, at 4.38 million, was down 24 percent from January 1, 2015. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$15.2 million during 2015, down 16 percent from 2014.

Catfish: Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, Arkansas, January 1, 2015-2016

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2015	2016	% Change from '15	2015	2016	% Change from '15	2015	2016
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	70	55	- 21	253	232	- 8	3.6	4.2
All Foodsize	9,020	7,340	- 19	13,600	10,150	- 25	-	-
Large	620	300	-52	2,400	1,000	- 58	3.9	3.3
Medium	2,630	2,660	+1	5,100	4,850	- 5	1.9	1.8
Small	5,770	4,380	- 24	6,100	4,300	- 30	1.1	1.0
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	44,430	38,100	- 14	5,550	5,850	+ 5	-	-
Large	4,430	7,500	+ 69	2,300	2,400	+ 4	519	320
Small	40,000	30,600	- 23	3,250	3,450	+ 6	81.3	112.7
Fingerlings	27,500	24,600	- 11	957	741	- 23	34.8	30.1

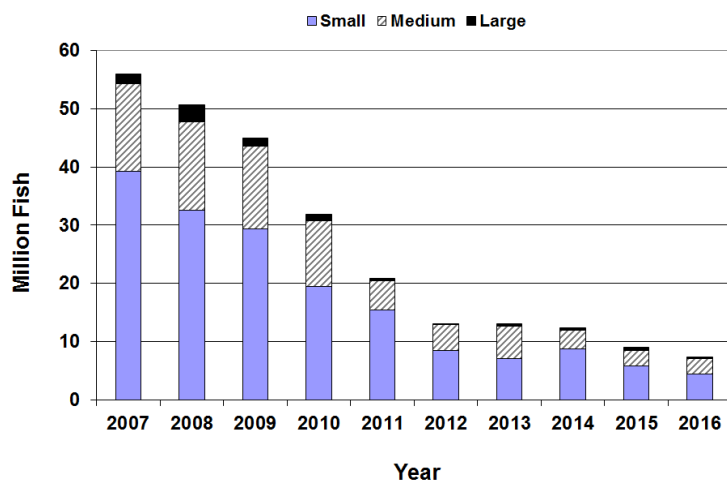
Catfish: Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, U.S., January 1, 2015-2016

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2015	2016	% Change from '15	2015	2016	% Change from '15	2015	2016
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	580	520	- 10	2,831	2,576	- 9	4.9	5.0
All Foodsize	150,120	150,145	-	212,189	199,144	- 6	-	-
Large	5,090	3,520	-31	17,859	12,574	- 30	3.5	3.6
Medium	48,220	45,775	- 5	93,029	85,941	- 8	1.9	1.9
Small	96,810	100,850	+ 4	101,301	100,629	- 1	1.0	1.0
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	248,790	204,800	- 18	53,101	40,767	- 23	-	-
Large	95,240	67,525	- 29	38,644	26,165	- 32	406	387
Small	153,550	137,275	- 11	14,457	14,602	- 1	94.2	106.4
Fingerlings	449,510	328,570	- 27	14,701	10,429	- 29	32.7	31.7

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, January 1, 2007-2016



Catfish: Sales by Size Category, Arkansas, 2014-2015

Size Category	Number		Live Weight Sold				Average Price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Weight		Total					
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	1,000 Fish		Pounds per Fish		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Foodsize	9,980	9,560	1.7	1.5	17,200	14,500	1.06	1.05	18,232	15,225
			Pounds per 1,000 Fish							
Fingerlings	8,100	9,870	34.3	26.5	278	262	2.87	1.46	798	383

Catfish: Water Surface Acres, Arkansas and U.S., January 1, 2015-2016

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States		
		2015	2016	% Change from '15	2015	2016	% Change from '15
Water Surface Used for Catfish	Acres	5,800	5,000	- 14	69,910	62,540	- 11
For Foodsize	Acres	4,200	3,300	- 21	53,510	49,435	- 8
For Fingerlings	Acres	1,200	1,400	+ 17	9,420	8,675	- 8
For Broodfish	Acres	195	230	+ 18	2,155	1,910	- 11